MOON KNIGHT™

LEMIRE / SMALLWOOD / BELLAIRE

#4

MERCENARY MARC SPECTOR DIED IN EGYPT UNDER A STATUE OF THE MOON GOD KHONSHU. IN THE SHADOW OF THE ANCIENT DEITY, MARC RETURNED TO LIFE AND TOOK ON KHONSHU'S ASPECT TO FIGHT CRIME FOR HIS OWN REDEMPTION. HE WENT COMPLETELY INSANE AND DISAPPEARED FOR A TIME, BUT RETURNED TO PROTECT THOSE WHO TRAVEL BY NIGHT. AT LEAST HE THINKS THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED...

MOON KNIGHT

WELCOME TO NEW EGYPT: PART 4 OF 5

MARC SPECTOR BELIEVED HE COULD SEE THE TRUTH: THE RETROGRADE SANITARIUM WHERE HE AND HIS FRIENDS WERE PATIENTS WAS ACTUALLY A PRISON, AND THEIR DOCTOR WAS CROCODILE-HEADED AMMUT, WHO HELD THE FIST OF KHONSHU CAPTIVE SO HER MASTER SETH COULD INVADE OUR REALITY. AS MOON KNIGHT, MARC LED HIS FRIENDS IN A GRAND ESCAPE. NOT ALL MADE IT. CRAWLEY GAVE HIS SOUL TO ANUBIS TO ENSURE PASSAGE FOR THE REST. WHEN THEY FINALLY SURFACED, THEY FOUND A NEW YORK CITY COVERED IN SAND AND PYRAMIDS.

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DO YOU SEE IT NOW, MARC? DO YOU SEE HOW IT WILL END? NOT IN BLOOD, BUT IN SAND.

YES. I SEE.

WHO YOU TALKING TO, HONEY?

THIS IS THE GREAT WORK OF MY BROTHER, SETH. SETH THE USURPER. HE WILL BURY YOUR WORLD AND BUILD A NEW ONE IN HIS IMAGE. HE MUST BE STOPPED.

ARE YOU READY, MY SON?

I AM.

MARC?

THEN IT BEGINS. THE FINAL NIGHT...

FELLAS!

THE--
THE HOSPITAL. BUT HOW CAN WE ONLY BE JUST OUTSIDE? IT FELT LIKE WE WENT *SO FAR* UNDERGROUND.

JUST BE GLAD WE GOT OUT AT ALL, HONEY.

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU FOLKS DOING OUT IN THIS STORM? AND WHY THE HELL ARE YOU DRESSED UP LIKE THAT?!

STORM?

YEAH, DAMN NEAR TSUNAMI OUT HERE. WHAT'S WITH THE GETUP, PAL?

HE'S RIGHT, WE NEED TO GET INSIDE. I'M GETTING SOAKED.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, GENA?

THE RAIN, MARC! IT IS NOT GOOD FOR MARLENE! WE NEED TO FIND SOMEWHERE TO WAIT THIS OUT!

BUT...THIS ISN'T RAIN. IT--IT WASN'T.

WHERE DID YOU GUYS COME FROM? I THINK MAYBE YOU SHOULD COME WITH ME.

MAYBE WE SHOULD, MARC?

NO...

NO!

MARC, DON'T!

WHO ARE YOU?! WHO ARE YOU REALLY?! SHOW ME YOUR FACE!

NNGGH!

SOBEK!

IT IS I, SON OF KHONSHU! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU...WAITING TO *EAT YOU* AND THEN *EXPEL YOU* AT THE FEET OF KING SETH!

UNGH!

MARC, NO! IT'S A COP!

HE'S NO COP, GENA! OPEN YOUR EYES!

STOP!

HRK!

JEAN-PAUL?!

NO!

GRR RAAAAAHHH!

OH, GOD!

FRENCHIE? JEAN-PAUL?

I--
I SEE
HIM.

I
SEE HIM, MR.
KNIGHT...

I'M SORRY,
JEAN-PAUL.

IS--IS THAT SAND? I DON'T--WHAT'S HAPPENING, MARC?!

YOU SEE IT, GENA? YOU FINALLY SEE WHERE WE ARE?

I--I SEE IT, BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

OH, THANK YOU. THANK YOU, I'M SO GLAD I'M NOT ALONE. I'M SO GLAD YOU SEE IT, TOO.

GENA, WHATEVER'S HAPPENING, I THINK I CAN STOP IT. I THINK I *HAVE* TO STOP IT. BUT WITH CRAWLEY AND FRENCHIE GONE...

...I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN DO IT ALONE.

WILL YOU HELP ME?

WHEREVER IT IS YOU'RE GOING, MARC...IT'S GOTTA BE BETTER THAN HERE.

MR. KNIGHT, GENA.

CALL ME MR. KNIGHT.

WHERE ARE ALL THE PEOPLE?

I DON'T KNOW. I--I'M NOT SURE I WANT TO FIND OUT, EITHER. SOMETHING ***VERY BAD*** IS HAPPENING, GENA.

MR. KNIGHT, THE SAND... IS IT GETTING DEEPER?

I DIDN'T WANT TO SCARE YOU ANY MORE THAN YOU ALREADY ARE, BUT I THINK IT'S BEEN RISING THE WHOLE TIME WE'VE BEEN WALKING.

WAIT! LOOK!

GENA'S DINER

GENA'S

MY DINER!

OH LORD, IS THAT A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES!

COME ON! EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE ALL RIGHT.

GENA, I'M NOT SURE THAT'S A GOOD IDEA. WE SHOULD KEEP MOVING.

NOW, MR. KNIGHT, ARE YOU REALLY NOT GOING TO LET ME COOK FOR YOU? A LITTLE REST AND SOME WARM COFFEE MAY GO A LONG WAY.

WELL, MAYBE JUST FOR A FEW MINUTES.

NOW YOU'RE TALKING.

SEE, DON'T YOU FEEL BETTER?

YES. I DO. THANK YOU, GENA.

GOD, I MISSED THIS PLACE. I BUILT IT MYSELF. IT WAS NOTHING, AND I HAD NOTHING, BUT I MADE IT WORK. JUST ME AND MY BOYS.

BOYS?

RAYMOND AND RICHARD. THEY'RE EVERYTHING TO ME, MR. KNIGHT. KEPT THIS PLACE GOING WHILE I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL.

I--I DON'T KNOW WHY THEY AREN'T HERE. I HOPE THEY'RE OKAY. WHEREVER THEY ARE.

I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO FIND THEM, GENA. I PROMISE.

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, MR. KNIGHT.

I'M NOTHING WITHOUT MY FRIENDS, GENA.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU ARE DOING IN HERE?

THE END IS HERE. THE HOURGLASS FILLS WITH SAND AND YOU WASTE PRECIOUS TIME EATING PANCAKES?

TELL ME, MARC, DID I CHOOSE POORLY? ARE YOU THE *MOON KNIGHT* OR ARE YOU JUST ANOTHER *PIECE OF WASTE* THAT DESERVES TO BE FLUSHED?

I JUST LOST TWO OF MY *BEST FRIENDS!*

BOO-HOO. YOU'LL NEED TO LOSE A LOT MORE BEFORE THIS IS OVER.

I'M GETTING REALLY TIRED OF YOUR #%$!

KNOCK KNOCK

MR. KNIGHT!

MEN

GENA?!

MEN

OH!

MARLENE?!

THE SUN IS COMING UP SOON...WE HAVE TO GO.

MARLENE, ARE YOU OKAY? HOW...?

I JUST-- THE FARTHER WE GET FROM THE HOSPITAL, THE BETTER I FEEL.

I-- I THINK IT'S THAT PYRAMID. THE BIG ONE. THE CLOSER WE GET TO IT, THE CLEARER MY MIND IS. CAN'T YOU FEEL IT, MARC?

I FEEL... SOMETHING. BUT IT'S NOT GOOD. YOU'RE RIGHT, THOUGH, WE HAVE TO KEEP GOING. WHATEVER I NEED TO DO TO FIX THINGS, I'LL DO IT THERE.

WELL, I THINK YOU'LL HAVE TO GO WITHOUT ME.

WHAT? GENA, WE NEED YOU.

HONEY, YOU DON'T NEED ME. WHATEVER YOU GOTTA DO, I'M NOT A PART OF IT ANYMORE. MAYBE MY JOB WAS JUST TO GET US HERE. GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO REST.

BESIDES, THIS IS WHERE *I* BELONG. AND IF MY BOYS ARE STILL OUT THERE SOMEWHERE, THIS IS WHERE THEY'LL COME. I HAVE TO STAY.

THE SAND IS RISING OUT THERE. I'M NOT SURE HOW LONG YOU HAVE UNTIL THE DINER IS BURIED.

IF THIS IS GOING TO BE MY TOMB...WELL THEN, SO BE IT. BETTER HERE THAN OUT THERE.

MARC... WE HAVE TO GO.

YOU'RE SURE, GENA?

I AM.

STAY SAFE, GENA.

YOU'RE THE ONE GOING OUT THERE, MR. KNIGHT...

"...IT'S YOU WHO NEEDS TO *BE CAREFUL.*"

WHY AREN'T THOSE THINGS ATTACKING US, MARC?

THEY WANT US TO COME.

BUT WHEN WE GET UP THERE, WHATEVER IS GOING TO HAPPEN, MARLENE, IT'S BOUND TO BE DANGEROUS.

I KNOW THAT. WHEN HAS BEING WITH YOU *NOT* BEEN DANGEROUS, MARC?

YOU REMEMBER EVERYTHING? OUR TIME BEFORE THE HOSPITAL?

YES, ALL OF IT...

"I REMEMBER YOUR ALTER EGO, STEPHEN GRANT, THE PLAYBOY. BUT I ALSO REMEMBER YOU AS MOON KNIGHT."

AND YOU REMEMBER... *US?*

"OF COURSE I DO, MARC...I LOVED YOU."

I STILL DO.

WHAT I DON'T REMEMBER IS HOW WE GOT IN THE MENTAL HOSPITAL. DO YOU?

NO.

MAYBE THE ANSWERS ARE WAITING FOR US THERE?

SOMETHING IS. THAT'S FOR SURE.

ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.

THOK

MARC!

WHO...?!

WHO DO YOU THINK...

...I'M MOON KNIGHT, YOU LUNATIC.

TO BE CONTINUED...

MOONIE MISSIVES

Write to mheroes@marvel.com and mark your letters "OKAY TO PRINT."

Hey Jake,

The premise is not a new one: Marc Spector is an abused inmate in an insane asylum and he may or may not see visions. However, the execution by Jeff, Greg, Jordie, and the team is refreshingly different.

Greg's art for the first four pages is a glorious reminder of Bill Sienkiewicz's MOON KNIGHT from way back. Then there's the transition to the modern illustration as we see things from two diverse perspectives: Marc's and everyone else's.

The double-page spread of Moon Knight surveying the Manhattan skyline with the pyramid and shifting sands is absolutely stunning, as is the normal NYC panorama in the bottom panel of the penultimate page. Greg has really captured the Empire State, Chrysler, and so on in a way that makes me want to return to the Big Apple. Is Greg's art for sale?

I want to know what happens next and would like to see a regular letters page, please.

Excelsior! & Cheers,
Bruce Marsh
Greater London, England

Thanks for the letter, Bruce! I agree, Greg's art is so ridiculously gorgeous and innovative it's almost unbelievable. And it can stand beside Sienkiewicz's seminal MOON KNIGHT work, which is about as high as comic book praise can get. But it's not all incredible art talent with Greg, he's also super charming, handsome, and has great taste in music. That's why, sadly, we all hate Greg. Stop making us look like chumps, Greg! At least he makes beautiful comics.

Dear Jeff, Greg, Jordie, and others,

Wow! I'm loving the new run, you guys! This first arc is looking to be a Moonie story I've always wanted to read. The art is gorgeous and compliments Marc's lunacy (lunar-cy?) fabulously.

I applaud you guys for tackling aspects of mental illness head on. Having my own skeletons lurking in the closet upstairs, it's refreshing to see a super hero battle unconventional, if not more relatable, foes than the usual supervillains. Marc's is-he/is-he-not struggles with sanity have kept me a fan for little over a decade now, and his determination to power through mental battles inspires me in taking on my own.

Thanks again for the great story, and I hope this run is a long-lived one!

All the best,
Sean

It's always so humbling to hear people relate so personally with the work we do here. Thank you for sending in your thoughts, Sean. Exactly how to handle Marc's precarious mental state is something we discussed quite a bit, and I think Jeff is deftly handling that tightrope of making a book full of big, wild comic action that also feels very personal and relatable in its protagonist's struggles. I'm so happy to hear it's working for you!

To whom it may concern,

I first became a fan of Moon Knight at one of my first comic book store visits with my father. I was so fascinated by the characters and the concept and the fantastic storyline that unfolded in the issues I read that I became a lifelong reader. Since then I've kept on reading the adventures of Marc Spector, and I've seen the character go through some changes, and different writers who have had their own interpretations of the Fist of Khonshu. But upon reading the first two issues of the new MOON KNIGHT series, I have found that child-like excitement I had when I first got into comics. This new storyline is phenomenal to say the least. The writing, the artwork--all of it leaves me speechless at the end of each issue. Thank you for staying true to the character, thank you for not shying away from the topic of mental illness, as that is an important part of Marc Spector's background and personality, and thank you for keeping me interested!

I look forward to issue three and everything the future has in store.

Very sincerely,
Nicholas Burton
Tampa, FL

I hope you've kept enjoying this wild ride, Nicholas! If we can make a dyed-in-the-wool Moon Knight fan like you happy, we must be doing something right!

I am hooked! This run of MOON KNIGHT is already brilliant. It's taken everything I love about the character and elevated it to a whole new level. The artwork tells a story of its own. I cannot wait to see where this story heads next. I love that Mr. Knight has returned. The way of bringing the other characters into the story as patients is perfect.

Scott Brunner
Willoughby, OH

It's great to see the ol' supporting crew again, ain't it, Scott? If only Jeff could stop having them sell their souls or get eaten by crocodile men or stay in diners…

Another unbelievable story. Literally, though! It's unbelievable, and I love it! I love the fact that most of my consciousness is saying, "Nick, Marc Spector is Moon Knight and this is all some crazy scheme by some bad guy!" But then again, a small part of me is saying, "Nick, I think Marc Spector is actually just a crazy and delusional man." It's brilliant, original, gripping, and I cannot get enough of it. I have so many questions and I know you guys will give me the best twisted answers in the next few issues!!!!! Keep the mysterious books coming!

Sincerely,
Nicholas Ricci
Walpole, MA

That's not your consciousness, Nick. That's me, hiding behind your couch, whispering to you as you read. You may not know what to believe about Marc Spector, Nick, but you can believe this: Jake Thomas is always just outside of your periphery, watching you read his books. Turn around and check RIGHT NOW! You just missed me… But I'm there, Nick…Always there…

Amazing!

I know most people that write these letters claim they are the biggest fan of a certain super hero, but boy-oh-boy, let me tell you! I feel like the direction MOON KNIGHT is going is forming a greater understanding of his condition and who Moon Knight truly is. I've waited eagerly for these issues to become available and couldn't be any more pleased. I'd love to have issues every week! Keep up the great artwork; the themes are excellent for sure. The story is fitting, as it feels like Marc is learning about Moon Knight along with us! It is an exciting ride and I wish the best of luck in the future if you continue your efforts on MOON KNIGHT.

P.S. Please stay and keep doing MOON KNIGHT as a team. This is what he truly needed.

Sincerely,
Herbert L. Hatter IV

We certainly want to keep all these brilliant people together as long as we can, Herbert, but I don't know about going WEEKLY. Poor Greg's hands would fall off! And he needs those! To make all the pretty pages!

Holy hell, this new Jeff Lemire MOON KNIGHT series is making me extremely excited. I am a huge Moon Knight fan, and I have to admit that I really did not know what to expect when I heard that there was a new MOON KNIGHT series in the works. After having read these first two issues, I can say that the future of Moon Knight looks very bright indeed. I damn near leapt out of my seat with disgusting excitement when the panel with Marc fully clothed as Mr. Knight showed up. I had to wipe away the tears just to see again. I am still breathing heavily as I write this. What the hell were those things at the end? Mummies? What the hell is going on???!!! Man-oh-man, I cannot wait for next month's issue. Thank you, Marvel, for doing an amazing and original character justice. I await the next issue with painfully contained excitement.

Sam Ramirez
Houston, TX

Sam, disgusting excitement is probably my favorite kind! If you continue to have difficulty breathing after reading MOON KNIGHT you may want to consult a doctor. Might I recommend Dr. Emmet? She's a good doctor, and thorough. And possibly a crocodile-person. But a FULLY LICENSED crocodile-person.

I can't wait to see what direction MOON KNIGHT goes in next!

Love what you're doing with him now and love that you got the group back together in this amazing edition! It's so crazy it might just work.

Matt S.

"So crazy I just might work!" is what I have written on the front of my business cards. Glad you're liking the book, Matt!

Holy Khonshu's cape!

I am SO excited for this new run on MOON KNIGHT. The first two issues were GREAT!

Jeff Lemire, you just "leveled up" on my favorite writers list! Greg Smallwood and Jordie Bellaire, this is a combo that's amazing! Great job!

Can't wait to see how the story ends! Great job, everybody!

Best regards,
TheNikoHero

THE Niko hero?! We're a long way from the end, but I'm glad you're enjoying the ride so far! And hey, ain't them Jordie Bellaire colors absolutely out of this world? She's one of the best in the biz, it's undeniable! And that Jeff Lemire guy, can that guy spin an awesome story or what?! I've already complimented that handsome, kind, talented jerk Greg Smallwood enough, though. No more nice words for that Adonis of comics.

To the MOON KNIGHT team,

I'm really enjoying this series so far! Smallwood's art has been excellent in the past two issues. And I'm glad Lemire is bringing back some of the older Moon Knight characters and expanding on Khonshu. I hope this series does well, since Moon Knight is such a criminally underrated character.

Sincerely,
Trevon

Agreed, Trevon. It IS criminal how underrated Moon Knight is, which means if you're out there spreading the good word about Moon Knight, you're essentially a crimefighter! Good job, Trevon! You're a hero!

Dear MOON KNIGHT team,

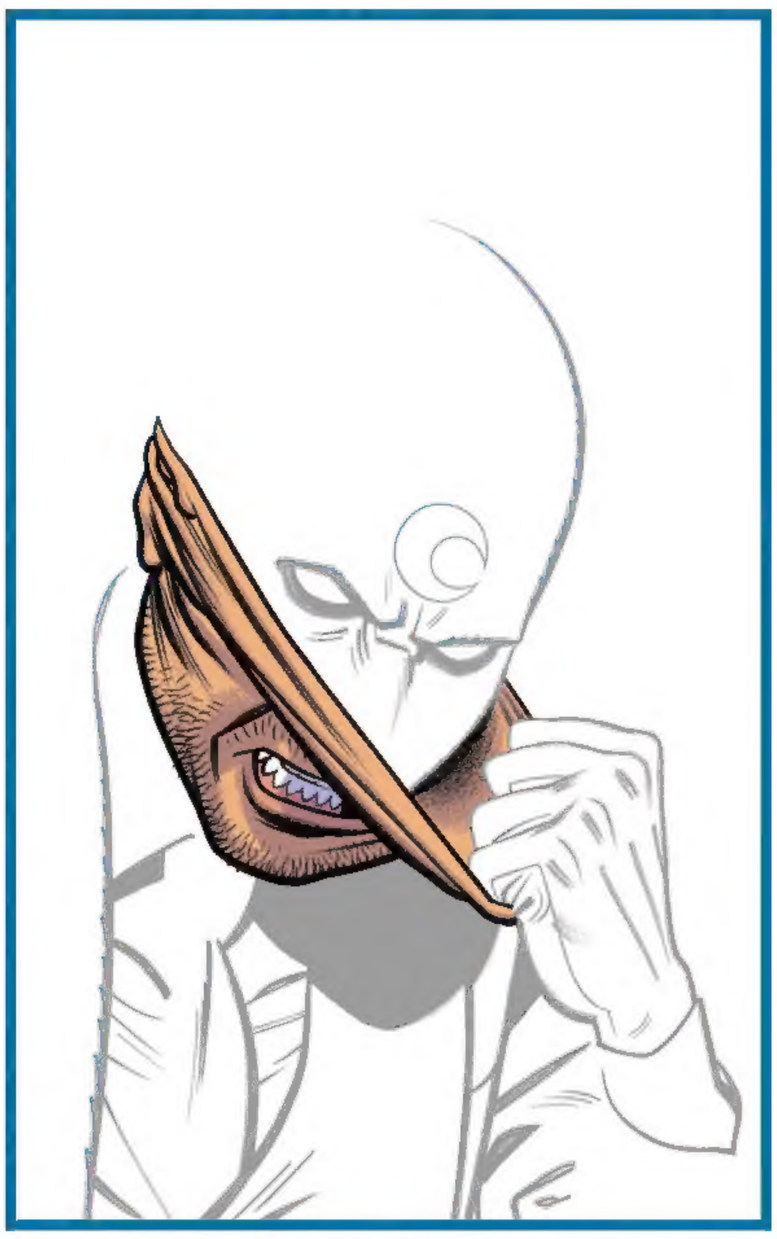
I just wanted to say I love the direction this is going in, and I'm an especially big fan of the return of the Mr. Knight persona from the last MOON KNIGHT series. This oft-overlooked Marvel hero has some phenomenal stories--it's great to see him getting another run with such a great creative team telling such a compelling story.

Though what's with Moon Knight punching above his weight class so often? First Nefaria, now Seth--how about making some new villains for a real Moon Knight rogues' gallery? Stained Glass Scarlet and Midnight can only be stretched so far.

All the best,
David

We can't take it easy on Moon Knight, David, what fun would that be? And are there better nominees for a Moon Knight rogues' gallery than Seth and Ammut?! I'll tell you this, it certainly isn't going to be getting any easier for Marc any time soon.

We've run out of room for this round, but keep sending in letters, we'll get to more next issue! In the meantime, check out the glorious cover to MOON KNIGHT #5 by "Gorgeous" Greg Smallwood, that thoughtful, dreamy jackass. No, YOU'RE jealous!



Until then, stay weird!

-Jake T.

ZONE